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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the specification and claims as detailed hereinafter prior to  
examination of the present claims.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.